



MASSACHUSETTS COMMISSION ON
LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER, AND
QUESTIONING YOUTH

Working for a Commonwealth where all youth thrive



Commission Member Application 2015

The Massachusetts Commission on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Questioning (LGBTQ) Youth is established by law as an independent agency of the Commonwealth to recommend and advocate to all branches of state government effective policies, programs, and resources for LGBTQ youth to thrive. Commission members work with state agencies, the Legislature, and school and community partners to address the social, economic, and health disparities affecting LGBTQ youth in Massachusetts. Our 50 members are responsible for accomplishing the work of the Commission and are expected to be active participants during their two-year term, which begins in January.

We invite you to join us by filling out the following application. Interviews of candidates will take place in October, with final determinations made in December. Please return this application electronically to Commission Coordinator Kevin Lam at kevin.lam@state.ma.us. Applications are due no later than **September 20, 2015**.

Section 1: Contact Info

Please only list information if it is okay to contact you at that location.

Name: _____
Address: _____

Daytime phone: _____
Alternative phone: _____
Email: _____

Section 2: Types of Membership/Demographics

There are two ways to become a Commission member: (1) by applying independently; or (2) after being appointed to the Commission by an appointing organization. Commission members who apply independently are called "regional Commissioner members." Regional members and appointed members share the exact same opportunities and responsibilities within the Commission.

1. Have you been chosen by an appointing organization? _____Yes _____No

If so, which one? _____

2. The commission values the perspectives of high school and college students and of non-students, and of both youth and adults.

Do you identify as a youth? _____Yes _____No

Are you currently a student? _____Yes _____No



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If you are a student, where and what grade? _____

Are you in school part-time, homeschooled, or enrolled in an alternative education program like special education or a vocational school? _____ Yes _____ No

If you are, please specify: _____

3. *Optional question:* In keeping with the goals set forth in Executive Order 526, and in order to best meet the needs of youth, the Commission seeks to reflect in its membership the breadth of diversity among LGBTQ youth in Massachusetts. It is important for the Commission to have membership that reflects a plurality of identities, personal and professional experiences and who represent the geographic diversity of LGBTQ youth in Massachusetts (especially areas outside of greater Boston). How can you contribute to the diversity of the Commission?

Note: any information volunteered here will be used solely for the purpose of evaluating the diversity of the commission as a whole, and will not be used in a discriminatory manner.

Section 3: Background Information

1. Have you ever been employed by the federal, state, or local government? If yes, please list positions, periods of employment and dates.

2. Have you ever been elected or appointed to public office (including other Boards and/or Commissions) in Massachusetts? If yes, please list and include dates:

3. Have you been or are you now a registered lobbyist? If yes, please list the principals you represent(ed) and dates:

4. Do you currently have any family members who are employed by the State Government in Massachusetts? (family member is defined as partner/spouse, parents, children or siblings and partner/spouse's parents, children or siblings.)

5. By law, all Commission members are considered to be special state employees. Please list any other possible conflicts of interest you might have below:



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Section 4: Expectations

Active participation by all members is essential for the Commission to function. Members are expected to attend all six full Commission meetings each year. Additionally, the Commission has committees which meet monthly, and require members to do work between committee meetings.

1. Can you commit to attending the six full Commission meetings and monthly committee meetings, and to follow-up activities between meetings?

_____ Yes _____ No

2. The Commission hosts events in addition to the regularly-scheduled meetings like public hearings, trainings and fundraisers. These events may happen in a variety of locations across the state and may occur during the day or the evening. Please describe your availability to attend these kinds of events.

3. The Commission will provide reasonable accommodations to anyone who has difficulty attending meetings due to disability, financial burden, illness, or location. For example, every Commission member has the opportunity to participate in meetings by phone, to be refunded as needed for the expense of traveling to meetings, and/or to gain assistance in organizing car pools. Is there anything else you need from the Commission in order to participate fully in meetings?

4. Please estimate the amount of time you are interested in spending on Commission activities each month.

5. Do you foresee any barriers to your full and active participation on the Commission?

6. All members are expected to be knowledgeable about the ways that racism, transphobia, sexism, and adultism (bias against youth) affect LGBTQ youth in Massachusetts. How do you address those issues in your work and life? How do you address them in groups? What are your strengths in those areas and what are your weaknesses?



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7a. *For adult applicants:* working directly with youth provides unique challenges and opportunities. What would you do as an adult Commission member to make sure that youth members have equal opportunities?

7b. *For youth applicants:* How do you contribute when working in mixed-age groups? What would you need from the Commission and adult allies to effectively participate?

8. Communication between meetings happens through email, document sharing, and conference calls. Some committees also require members to edit documents on their own. Are you comfortable with the following:

<input type="checkbox"/> email	<input type="checkbox"/> Google documents / Google Drive
<input type="checkbox"/> email attachments	<input type="checkbox"/> Conference calls
<input type="checkbox"/> Microsoft Word	

9. If you are unfamiliar with any of those programs, are you willing to learn how to use them?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Section 5: Interests and Skills

The Commission has four major goals:

1. To recommend and implement a policy roadmap for LGBTQ youth in partnership with state agencies.
2. To convene researchers, community-based organizations, government entities, and community members.
3. To advocate for resources targeted at LGBTQ youth. Our priority populations are LGBTQ youth of color and transgender youth.
4. To develop and oversee initiatives, including...
 - o Safe Schools Program for LGBTQ Students at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).
 - o Pilot projects in collaboration with state agencies and community partners.

To help us learn more about you, please answer the questions below in one paragraph each.



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1. Why are you interested in joining the Commission?

2. Commission members meet directly with government leaders; research and draft policy recommendations; lead discussions with researchers and community groups; educate legislators about important topics; attend community events such as Youth Pride; and write op-eds for newspapers. Members use skills such as:

- Research
- Press / Communications
- Public speaking
- Fundraising
- Grant writing
- Event planning
- Organizational strategy
- Community connections
- Training / Facilitating dialogue
- Policy
- Fiscal management/budgeting

Please describe the skills you bring to the Commission and how you would help us achieve one or more of the Commission's major goals (listed above).

3. Many LGBTQ youth deal with multiple forms of discrimination due to their race, sexual orientation, and gender identity. What are some issues specific to LGBTQ youth of color and trans youth, and how should the Commission address these issues?



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4. Describe one change you think the government can make for LGBTQ youth in one of the following areas: (A) Homelessness and unstable housing situations; (B) Health disparities; (C) Student organizations in schools (GSAs, Pride Alliances).

Section 6: Experience

Please answer the questions below. If you prefer, you are welcome to attach a current resume when you turn in this application.

1. Educational background: Please list all of the schools you've attended and any degrees obtained.

2. Work experience: Please list job titles, employers, and job responsibilities. For youth, this section can also include internships and work-study.

3. Volunteer experience: Please list organizations or groups that you have volunteered with and describe what you did. Describe ways in which you have been a leader.

4. Additional relevant experience (if any):



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5. How have any of the experiences you listed above prepared you to contribute to the Commission?

6. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about yourself, your background, or your experience?

7. Please provide us with the names of three people (adult or youth) who can tell us why you would be a good fit for the Commission and the best way (or ways) to get in contact with them. Do not list any of your relatives.

1. Name: _____

Contact information: _____

Relationship to you: _____

2. Name: _____

Contact information: _____

Relationship to you: _____

3. Name: _____

Contact information: _____

Relationship to you: _____

Thank you for your interest in serving on the Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Youth.

The Commission does not discriminate on the basis of race, age, color, religion, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, veteran status or disability.